

Nutrient Reduction Priority Issue Team Working Session
July 10, 2007: 1:15 to 5:00 p.m.

1:15 p.m. Introductions

1:30 p.m. Goal 1: Increase regional coordination in the development of nutrient criteria

- 1) Overall Regional Coordination Plan/Timeline-** *Kim Caviness, MDEQ*
- 2) Off Track Action Item –to be discussed with WQ Team later in meeting**
- 3) On Track Action Items**
 - a) N1:2 Complete and transfer knowledge gained from the Northern Gulf Estuarine Pilot Project and identify one or more estuaries to apply the methods and lessons learned from the pilot.
 - i) Status of Battelle contract, methods, lessons learned- *Jan Kurtz, EPA Gulf Breeze*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Lynn Sisk, ADEM*
 - b) N1:6 Develop a library/database of marine and estuarine species for site specific D.O. criteria development.
 - i) Draft database update- *Lael Butler, EPA GMPO*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Charles Kovach, FDEP*

2:00 p.m. Goal 2: Implement nutrient reduction activities during Gulf recovery and rebuilding

- 1) Off Track Action Item**
 - a) N2:A6 Map communities served by advanced wastewater treatment systems to help develop strategies for remediation activities.
 - i) Level of priority: MEDIUM
 - ii) Proposed next steps – *Lael Butler, EPA GMPO*
- 2) On Track Action Items**
 - a) N2:A1 Identify key coastal watersheds with significant nutrient impacts, sensitive waters, and a high likelihood of successful restoration of fishing and recreational uses.
 - i) Estuarine Eutrophication Assessment Update- *David Whitall, NOAA*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Natalie Guedon, MDEQ*
 - b) N2:A2 Identify communities conducting infrastructure rebuilding activities where nutrient reduction can be achieved through improved infrastructure planning and design.
 - i) MS Regional Utility Pilot- *Phil Bass, EPA GMPO*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Kim Caviness, MDEQ*
 - c) N2:A3 Identify and prioritize implementation and coordination opportunities for existing federal, state, and local programs in key coastal watersheds and communities conducting infrastructure rebuilding activities. [Combine with N2:A2]
 - d) N2:A4 Provide technical assistance to interested local governments to improve infrastructure planning and design.
 - i) Wastewater training workshops in MS and LA - *Phil Bass, EPA GMPO*

- ii) Proposed next steps- *Phil Bass, EPA GMPO*
- e) N2:A5 Evaluate the effectiveness of nutrient reduction activities in key coastal watersheds and rebuilding communities and develop techniques to improve effectiveness.
 - i) LA Wastewater Treatment Pilot- *Kris Pintado, LDEQ*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Kris Pintado, LDEQ*

3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:15 p.m. Goal 3: Assert aligned 5 state position on the need to address Gulf of Mexico hypoxia

1) Off Track Action Items –None

2) On Track Action Items

- a) N3:A1 Assist in the completion of a comprehensive reassessment of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan.
 - i) Reassessment update- *Alan Lewitus, NOAA*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Dugan Sabins and Kris Pintado, LDEQ*
- b) N3:A4 Establish effective Mississippi River Basin-wide agricultural partnerships to better facilitate strategic voluntary nutrient reductions.
 - i) Update on agricultural partnerships- *Phil Bass, EPA GMPO*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Dugan Sabins and Kris Pintado, LDEQ*

3:45 p.m. Collaborative Actions with the Water Quality Team

1) Off Track Action Items

- a) N1:4 Present a comprehensive assessment of Gulf nutrient monitoring program needs to the National Water Quality Design Team.
 - i) Priority level: HIGH
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Steve Wolfe, FDEP*
 - iii) PRODUCT: Comprehensive inventory of nutrient monitoring needs to implement estuarine nutrient criteria in the Gulf of Mexico.
 - iv) PRODUCT: Pilot project for determining nutrient fate, transport, and effects in one or more diverse estuaries across the Gulf of Mexico.

2) On Track Action Items

- a) N1:3 Identify and coordinate federal, state, and local monitoring efforts and data management systems to support development of nutrient criteria.
 - i) Focus on ‘coordinate data management systems’- *Steve Wolfe, FDEP*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Steve Wolfe, FDEP*
 - iii) PRODUCT: Database of metadata describing state, local, and federal nutrient monitoring programs in the Gulf of Mexico.
- b) N-1:5 Inventory modeling needs to deal with nutrient issues under permitting, TMDL development, and nutrient criteria development.
 - i) Database development update- *Scott Cross, NOAA*
 - ii) Proposed next steps- *Steve Wolfe, FDEP*

5:00 p.m. Adjourn